

CLAIMS

1. An agent for enhancing collagen production, which comprises L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative and a fatty acid or its derivative as effective ingredients.

2. The agent of claim 1, which contains said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative in an amount of 0.01% (w/w), in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid, to the total weight of said agent.

3. The agent of claim 1 or 2, which contains a fatty acid or its derivative in an amount of at least 0.0001 part by weight to one part by weight of said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative, in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid.

4. The agent of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is derived from royal jelly.

5. The agent of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is one or more members selected from the group consisting of 10-hydroxy-2-decenoic acid, 10-hydroxydecanoic acid, decanoic acid, 2-decenoic acid, and sebacic acid.

6. The agent of any one of claims 1 to 5, which further contains one or more other ingredients selected from materials for food products, foods for special use, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, quasi-drugs, feeds, baits, and pet foods.

7. The agent of claim 6, wherein said other ingredient is one or more members selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, viscosity-imparting agents,

stabilizers, excipients, fillers, pH-controlling agents, viscosity-imparting agents, sour agents, extracts, saccharides, glycosaminoglycans, sugar alcohols, amino acids, vitamins including L-ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, water, alcohols, amylaceous substances, proteins, fibers, lipids, minerals, flavors, colors, sweeteners, seasonings, spices, preservatives, emulsifiers, and surfactants.

8. The agent of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said L-ascorbic acid derivative is one or more members selected from the group consisting of salts of L-ascorbic acid, L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside, and L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside.

9. The agent of claim 8, wherein said L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside contains at least L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside.

10. The agent of claim 7, wherein said glycosaminoglycan is one or more members selected from the group consisting of chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, heparin, heparan sulfate, keratan sulfate, hyaluronic acid, and aluronic acid.

11. A food product, health food, or food for special use, which comprises the agent of any one of claims 1 to 10.

12. A cosmetic, which comprises the agent of any one of claims 1 to 10.

13. A pharmaceutical or quasi-drug, which comprises the agent of any one of claims 1 to 10.

14. A feed, bait or pet food, which comprises the

agent of any one of claims 1 to 10.

15. A process for producing the agent of any one of claims 1 to 10, which comprises a step of incorporating L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative and a fatty acid or its derivative.

16. A method for separating a fatty acid or its derivative from a raw royal jelly, which comprises the steps of:

suspending said raw royal jelly in a solvent;

separating the resulting suspension into a supernatant fraction and a precipitate fraction by centrifugation and/or filtration;

dissolving the precipitate fraction with an alkaline agent;

neutralizing the resulting solution with an acid agent; and

separating the resulting neutralized solution with a membrane to collect said fatty acid or its derivative.